

7/3/00 - I could hardly believe my eyes  
 when I came across Melitabel M.  
 Loomis' shawl in one of the Circasian  
 Walnut dressers in Mom's room this  
 afternoon. A note, in Aunt Edna's  
 hand, is enclosed with the shawl,  
 which is in a Golden Crown Idaho  
 Potato<sup>plastic</sup> bag:

"Aunt Melitabel's Silk Shawl  
 wife of Erastus Loomis  
 bro. of Grandfather Loomis  
 He died very young,  
 Oct. 18, 1863.

Married 1841—  
 Shawl given to me by Mother"

I was going through some of  
 Mom's things when this shawl  
 surfaced. It was among some  
 linen tablecloths and napkins. 17  
 Melitabel Mussey Loomis was